

W. 8. b.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

Date: April 20, 2005
To: Lane County Board of Commissioners
Dept.: Public Works/Parks Division
Presenter: Todd Winter, Parks Manager
Agenda Item Title: IN THE MATTER OF ALLOWING THE PARKS DIVISION TO COORDINATE WITH FRIENDS OF BUFORD PARK & MT. PISGAH TO SUBMIT GRANT PROPOSALS AND, IF AWARDED, TO ACCEPT GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SOUTH MEADOW AREA AND TO PROPAGATE NATIVE PLANTS AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NURSERY WITHIN HOWARD BUFORD RECREATION AREA; AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE RESPECTIVE GRANT AGREEMENTS AS NECESSARY.

I. MOTION

Adopt order authorizing the Parks Division to coordinate with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah to submit grant proposals to, and, if awarded, to accept grants funds from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service and other funding agencies in substantially the form of the attached proposals for the purposes of 1) habitat enhancement in the South Meadow Area of Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) and 2) plant propagation and improvements at the Native Plant Nursery at HBRA.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

The Parks Division's capital improvement budget is inadequate to meet all park improvement, development and enhancement needs, thus requiring the County to maximize funding from other sources. The adopted South Meadow Management Plan establishes clear goal and strategies for habitat restoration, including native plant propagation in the nursery within Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA), but outside grant funds are necessary to advance these goals.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

On Nov. 31, 1998, Lane County entered into a Landowner Agreement with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah to improve habitat on Howard Buford Recreation Area; the agreement was amended on February 14, 2000 to add the South Meadow area and jointly develop a South Meadow management plan. The Board of County Commissioners on January 9, 2002 adopted the South Meadow Management Plan and authorized the Parks Division to collaborate with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah to apply for grants to provide habitat enhancements to the

South Meadow area of Howard Buford Recreation Area. The Board of Commissioners later in 2002, and again in 2003, approved acceptance of two separate grants for this project from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, one from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and one from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

In a related decision, the Board of Commissioners on December 17, 2002 approved a contract between Lane County and Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP) for FBP to provide grant management services. Under the contract, FBP solicits grant funding park enhancement projects that Lane County has previously approved, such as the South Meadow project. On April 16, 2003, the Board of Commissioners approved acceptance of a \$287,210 grant from OWEB to implement floodplain habitat enhancements, including reopening and restoring flows to blocked side channels. Permits were secured in Summer 2003, and most Phase I project objectives have been accomplished.

On April 21, 2004, the Board of Commissioner authorized submission by FBP of a \$499,000 grant application for additional South Meadow floodplain enhancements. OWEB awarded only \$75,000 for monitoring, weed control and care of the 35 acres of plantings, and directed FBP to resubmit a smaller request for a project with narrower enhancement objectives.

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY: On November 6, 2002, Lane County executed an agreement with FBP to develop a native plant nursery in the HBRA to provide plant material for restoration projects and to educate the public about the value of native habitats at HBRA. To date, FBP has propagated over 35 species of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees in the nursery.

The new grants would fund

- 1) Phase II floodplain restoration tasks on the South Meadow in 2006-2007, and
- 2) Native plant nursery improvements and propagation for restoration projects in the park and Lane County.

B. Analysis

The South Meadow (aka South Pasture) area is an approximately 200-acre floodplain site located within Lane County's Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. Lane County entered into a Landowner Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of Buford Park on November 30, 1998 for a period of ten (10) years and Amendment #1 was signed on February 14, 2000. The agreement in part states:

"I. South Pasture [Meadow] Project Area: ...Actions may include removal of exotic vegetation (such as scotch broom and blackberry), planting of native riparian forest trees, and the restoration of overflow channels (subject to the necessary permits and approvals). At the sole discretion of Lane County, low intensity educational and recreational use compatible with the HBRA Master Plan will continue in this area."

The South Meadow Management Plan has three goals:

- Goal A:** Restore the ecological integrity of the floodplain.
- Goal B:** Provide recreational opportunities compatible with ecological stewardship.
- Goal C:** Provide educational opportunities compatible with ecological stewardship.

Under the auspices of the grant management services agreement, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah will seek \$150,000 from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, \$150,000 from National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and \$25,000 from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to implement enhancements called for in the adopted South Meadow Management Plan. If fully funded, Lane County Parks and Friends of Buford Park will:

- 1) implement Phase II permitted floodplain restoration measures to create 2.25 acres of seasonal backwater habitat and increase side channel complexity;
- 2) propagate and plant genetically local native forbs, shrubs and trees,
- 3) irrigate approximately 15,000 trees/shrubs/grasses planted in 2004 on 18 acres;
- 4) monitor wildlife and restored channel behavior;
- 5) control exotic weeds,
- 6) lead educational tours and volunteer work parties.

All necessary permits for the South Meadow project were secured in 2003 and authorized both the (completed) Phase I and Phase II hydrologic modifications.

Permits for native plant nursery improvements have been submitted. (Plant propagation is an allowable farm use on lands zoned parks and recreation.) Nursery improvements include a greenhouse and seed drying/processing shed. Additional grow-out beds will enable FBP to increase the quantity and diversity of native plants propagated. FBP proposes to apply for \$40,000 from National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and smaller grants from Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Parks Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, and other funding agencies, consistent with the Grant Management Services Agreement.

BENEFITS:

Planting a diversity of native plant communities will provide enhanced habitat for larger populations of a greater number of native wildlife and plant species. This will provide enhanced recreational experience for the many visitors to the Howard Buford Recreation Area.

Phase II hydrologic restoration of historic side channel habitat will yield multiple benefits, including:

- 1) enhanced connectivity between the river's main (low flow) channel and its floodplain and side channels;
- 2) provision of critical habitat for threatened Spring Chinook salmon, other fish and other aquatic species,
- 3) flood detention and storage, and
- 4) improved water quality on the Coast Fork Willamette (a water quality limited stream for temperature, bacteria, and toxics).

In summary, if awarded, the grants will advance the goals of the adopted South Meadow Management Plan.

Answers to questions from Administrative Procedures Manual, Chapter 1, Section 2a, Issue 1, Item IV (B), regarding grants:

1. **What is the match requirement, if any, and how is that to be covered for the duration of the grants?** OWEB and NOAA are proposed primary funding source at \$150,000 each. OWEB requires a minimum \$25% match, so NOAA funds would provide the match. NOAA requires a 1 to 1 non-federal match, so OWEB funds would satisfy that match. Other smaller grants will be sought to ensure sufficient match funds are available for the larger grants. In addition, in-kind volunteer service qualify for matches. FBP has committed to sustain its current in-kind contribution of volunteer services to the project valued at approximately \$70,000 (\$35,000 per year). Below is a table summarizing cash and in-kind funding sources that will be sought. Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP), acting through the grant management services contract, will work to secure these grants and in-kind commitments.

South Meadow & Nursery Funding Sources	Cash	In-kind Match	Total Cash & In-kind	Requested/Pending/Secured/
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)	\$150,000		\$150,000	To be requested
NOAA-Community Restoration Partnership Grant	\$150,000		\$40,000	To be requested
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	\$25,000		\$25,000	To be requested
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)		\$50,000	\$50,000	To be requested
Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP)*		\$75,000	\$75,000	Secured
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (nursery propagation)	\$40,000		\$40,000	To be requested
Lane County Parks Division		\$5,000	\$5,000	Requested

2. **Will the grant require expenditures for Material and Services or capital not fully paid for by the grant?** The County's proposed in-kind match of \$5000 would pay for Parks staff time devoted to administration, project planning and implementation, maintenance mowing, and signage developed for educational purposes. No additional County expenditures are anticipated. These funds will come from approximately \$5,000 (\$2500 annually) earned by the Parks Division from the project area's enrollment in the U.S. Dept of Agriculture's riparian Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
3. **Will the grant funds be fully expended before county funds need to be spent?** No, County funds will be spent throughout the duration of the project, concurrent with grant funds to support project oversight and implementation.
4. **How will the administrative work of the grant be covered if the grant funds don't cover it?** The administration of the grant is part of Lane County's in-kind match for this project and will be funded out of approximately \$5000 (\$2500 annually) derived from the project area's enrollment in the U.S. Dept of Agriculture's riparian Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

- 5. Have the stakeholders been informed of the grant sunseting policy so there is no misunderstanding when the funding ends? Describe plan for services if funding does not continue?** Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah is the key stakeholder and understands the sunseting policy. If funding is reduced, project tasks and services will be reduced to the level combined FBP funding and volunteer support can support. As with current grant agreements, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP) has committed to maintain the project (weed control, irrigation, supplementary plantings, etc) and monitor results for a period of three years, as required by OWEB.
- 6. What accounting, auditing and evaluation obligations are imposed by the grant conditions?** Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP), in accord with the grant management services contract with Lane County, is responsible for grant accounting (in accord with generally accepted accounting principles), auditing and evaluation. FBP conducts an annual fiscal review of its books. FBP also submits the final evaluation report to funding agencies, and provides a copy to Lane County Parks Division.
- 7. How will the department cover the accounting, auditing and evaluation obligations? How are the costs for these obligations covered, regardless whether they are in the department submitting the grant or a support service department? Does the department acknowledge that the county will need to cover these costs and it is an appropriate cost incurred by support service departments?** Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP), in accord with the grant management services contract with Lane County, will be responsible for grant accounting (in accord with generally accepted accounting principles), auditing and evaluation. FBP conducts an annual fiscal review of its books. FBP also submits the final evaluation report to funding agencies, and provides a copy of the final report to Lane County Parks Division.
- 8. Are there any restrictions against applying the county full cost indirect charge?** There are no restrictions against applying the county full cost indirect charge.
- 9. Are there unique conditions that trigger additional county work effort, or liability, i.e., maintenance of effort requirements or supplanting prohibitions or indemnity obligations?** As with current grant agreements, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah (FBP) has committed to maintain the project (weed control, irrigation, supplementary plantings, etc) and monitor results for a period of three years, as required by OWEB. There are no other unique or unusual conditions that we are aware of that will trigger additional county work effort or obligations.
- 10. Grants involving technology issues require Information Services department review and approval prior to submission to the Board to ensure compatibility with existing county systems and development tools.** Not applicable.
- 11. Information Services department sign-off is required for all agenda items requesting funding for new or enhanced computer applications/systems that will interface with existing county systems/infrastructure.** Not applicable.
- 12. If this is a grant funded computer/software applications project.....** Not applicable.

C. Alternatives and Options

You have at least the following options with regard to this matter:

1. Authorize Lane County Parks Division to coordinate with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah to submit grants to fund propagation of native plants and habitat enhancements in the South Meadow area of Howard Buford Recreation Area. (*OWEB grant deadline is April 25, 2005.*)
2. End further consideration of grant proposals for these projects.
3. Direct staff to provide additional information for consideration at a future date.

D. Recommendation

The Parks Advisory Committee and Parks staff recommends Option #1.

E. Timing

If approved, the OWEB grant proposal will be submitted on April 26, 2004, with the others due in May. Notification of awards is expected by September, 2004

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW UP

If the motion is approved and funds are awarded, the County Administrator will sign the necessary grant agreements, assuming grants amounts and conditions have not changed in a manner to trigger Administrative Procedures Manual, Chapter 1, Section 2a, Issue 1. After grant agreements are signed, the Parks Division's will oversee project implementation in 2006-2007 through its grant management services contract with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah.

V. ATTACHMENTS

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

) IN THE MATTER OF ALLOWING THE PARKS
) DIVISION TO COORDINATE WITH FRIENDS
) OF BUFORD PARK TO SUBMIT GRANT
) PROPOSALS AND, IF AWARDED, TO ACCEPT
) GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF HABITAT
) ENHANCEMENTS IN THE SOUTH MEADOW
) AREA AND TO PROPOGATE NATIVE PLANTS
) AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE NURSERY
) WITHIN THE HOWARD BUFORD RECREATION
) AREA; AND DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE
) COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE
) RESPECTIVE GRANT AGREEMENTS AS
) NECESSARY

ORDER NO. _____

WHEREAS, the adopted Howard Buford Recreation Area Master Plan contains, among others, the following goals:

- **Goal 2:** Protect sensitive and significant natural resource areas and restore degraded habitat,
- **Goal 6:** Maximize the value of the Park as a educational resource, and
- **Goal 7:** Help coordinate efforts and cooperate with groups whose goals are complimentary to those of the Howard Buford Recreation Area.

WHEREAS, Lane County entered into a Landowner Agreement on November , 30, 1998 and Amendment #1 on February 14, 2000, which is still in effect, with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah (FBP), and

WHEREAS, this landowner agreement in part states the South Meadow area “shall be available for fish and wildlife habitat enhancements,” and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners on January 9, 2002 adopted the South Meadow Management Plan, which established floodplain and habitat restoration, educational and recreational goals for this portion of Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA), including native plant propagation at the nursery in HBRA,

WHEREAS, Lane County also executed an agreement on November 5, 2002 with Friends of Buford Park to develop a native plant nursery at HBRA to propagate plant materials for habitat restoration projects at the park and elsewhere in Lane County, and also to serve as an educational facility, and

WHEREAS, Lane County Parks Division has a long history of coordination and cooperating with volunteer groups whose goals are complementary to those of the Howard Buford Recreation Area’s Master Plan; and the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah were selected to provide Grant Management Services for the Howard Buford Recreation Area, and

WHEREAS, Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah has successfully implemented Phase I of the South Meadow Floodplain Restoration project to restore more frequent flows to a 3/4-mile side channel, planted native trees, shrubs and grasses on 35 acres and have propagated over 40 species of native plant in the nursery; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, is accepting grant proposals to implement floodplain habitat restoration; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is accepting grant proposals to implement floodplain habitat restoration and reforestation; and

WHEREAS, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration is accepting grant proposals to implement floodplain habitat restoration; and

WHEREAS, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is accepting grant proposals to support native plant conservation, including native plant nurseries; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Parks Divisions desires to participate in these grant programs to the greatest extent possible as a means of providing needed park system enhancements to meet the goals of the HBRA Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah have agreed to assist with the projects and the grant applications, as outlined in the Grant Management Services contract (No 02-03-PKS-03); and

WHEREAS, the proposed project could not be completed without the assistance of the grant funds; now therefore

IT IS ORDERED that the Parks Division be authorized to coordinate with Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah to apply for grant funds to enhance the South Meadow floodplain area and to propagate native plants at HBRA from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Oregon State Weed Board, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon Community Foundation; Laird Norton Foundation, Bullitt Foundation, Brainerd Foundation, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, PGE Foundation, and other suitable granting agencies.

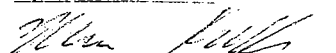
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the County Administrator be authorized to sign the grant applications and grant agreements.

Dated this _____ day of April, 2005

Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 4-12-05 lane county



OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL